Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

has commenced his great work on the Carboniferous fossils of Belgium, to contain 150 plates, 4to. After forty-five years of service the Belgian government has conferred upon him a pension, which will enable him to spend the remainder of his life in comparative independence.

— The Congrès International des Américanistes will hold its second session at Luxembourg, September 10–13, 1877. The secretary, Mr. J. Schoetter, is very anxious that communications be sent at as early a date as practicable from Americans. He hopes that American savants will be induced to take as large a part as possible in this meeting, and that they will furnish matter enough for one volume of the *Comptes rendus.*

— Karl Ernst von Baer, the eminent zoölogist and embryologist, died at St. Petersburg, November 29, 1876, aged eighty-five years. He will always be remembered for his classic work, Ueber Entwickelungsgeschichte der Thiere, 1828–37. In 1834 he resigned his chair of zoölogy at Königsberg and removed to St. Petersburg, becoming librarian of the Academy of Sciences. — Theodor von Heuglin, the traveler and zoölogist, died at Stuttgart, November 5th, aged fifty-two years. — A well-known Scotch zoölogist, Dr. T. Strethill Wright, died October last, aged fifty-eight.

— In order to furnish an opportunity for teachers in natural science and special students in geology to become acquainted with the methods of practical work in that science, a Summer School of Geology will be conducted by Prof. N. S. Shaler and Mr. Wm. M. Davis, Jr., assistant in geology, during six weeks in July and August, under the form of instruction at Cambridge and an excursion through Massachusetts and into New York. The school will open early in July at the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, in Cambridge. A fortnight will be spent in introductory work, and in short, daily excursions. The rest of the time will be divided between the Connecticut Valley, the Berkshire Hills (Western Massachusetts), and either the Helderberg or the Catskill Mountains of New York. In each locality some central point, characteristic of the district and easily accessible by railroad, will be taken for headquarters, and short excursions on foot or by rail will be made from it. Persons wishing to join the school should address Wm. M. Davis, Jr., 15 Summer St., Cambridge, Mass.

— Professor Henry urges the establishment of a national museum at Washington, with the government Centennial collection as a nucleus, and the repaid Centennial loan as a building and endowment fund.

◆

PROCEEDINGS OF SOCIETIES.

New York Academy of Sciences. — *Biological Section*, October 2d. Captain J. H. Mortimer exhibited a series of pelagic animals, such as pteropods, Carinaria, Atlanta, Janthina, small cephalopods, crustacea, and the insect *Halobatis*, together with Salpa, Physalia, Porpita, Vellela, etc., collected by him in the course of a voyage from New York to San Francisco, and back by way of Liverpool.

Geological Section, October 16th. A paper on Prehistoric Remains in Western North Carolina was read by Mr. A. A. Julien, who has been associated with Professor Kerr in the survey of that State. Four classes of such remains were considered, namely, tools, rude sculpturings, mounds, and excavations. A small collection of tools was exhibited, and accidental resemblances to those from St. Acheul, France, noted in them. The rude imitative carvings on rocks, which have been observed in two localities, were then referred to, as well as those, possibly of Indian origin, on beeches in the Nantehaleh Valley, resembling maps of the surrounding excavations. The scarcity of mounds was explained, their general restriction to the tract covered by ancient excavations referred to, and a description given of the largest one, near Franklin, Macon County.

A remarkable pitting of the mountain sides by mines is now going on; but perhaps it hardly equals that which formerly existed, as represented by the extensive series of ancient excavations which extends from Mitchell County southward to the state line, and into Georgia, and which seems to have been directed to the exploitation of two minerals, muscovite and steatite. The peculiar industry of the region at present consists in mining for mica. The coarse granite veins which contain it often include a central quartz band, which has affected the character of both the prehistoric and the present styles of mining. All the mines are superficial, and their veins may be divided into hard or soft, in relation to the state of decomposition of their materials. In fourteen mines visited, in which the veins are hard, no ancient workings had been found. But of twenty-one mines with soft veins visited, eight had been discovered through the ancient workings, whose size was proportioned to that of the veins, and generally indicated their importance for the present industry. These workings are of two classes. The one consists of deep shafts, sometimes containing iron tools, and supposed by some to be due to the Spaniards, or to later adventurers in the early history of our country. The other class consists of open excavations, sometimes connected with small tunnels, and are certainly of prehistoric origin. These were severally described, namely, the Sink Hole and Buckhannon mines in Mitchell County; the Gibbs in Yancy County; Allman's, Raby's, Hall's, and Smith's in Macon County; and Smith's in Clay County, with observations on the mode of mining, the form of the tunnels, the character of the dumps, the plans and sections of the excavations, and the tools probably used by the ancient miners. The ashes discovered in certain mines may betoken the occasional use of fire in the course of mining here, as in the tunnels of the Lake Superior copper region.

The vast quantities of mica which have been extracted in this region in prehistoric times were then considered, and their probable destination. Lastly, a description was given of the similar, but less extensive, series of excavations for steatite in the counties of Clay, Swain, etc. The importance of a careful topographical survey of this portion of the State should be impressed upon its people and their legislators; but unless it speedily takes place the progress of agriculture and the absence of public interest will soon destroy many of these interesting monuments of its ancient history.

The paper of Mr. Julien was discussed with much interest. Dr. Newberry and Professor Martin referred particularly to the extensive use of mica plates in the tombs of the mound-builders in the Mississippi Valley, as described by Dr. Rau in his essay on aboriginal trade in North America. It is evident that in these mines we have the source of this mica, which had until recently been a problem with archæologists.

Prof. Thomas Egleston read a paper upon Vein Accidents in the Lake Superior Region; its character was such, however, that it is difficult to present it without the diagrams which accompanied it.

The Biological Section held a special meeting on October 30th, at the library of the New York Aquarium. The chairman of the section, Prof. E. C. H. Day, gave an opening address entitled Thoughts on Evolution, in which he opposed a good many objections that are raised against the evolution hypothesis, and pointed out their weakness. President Newberry followed, in a somewhat different view, holding that many of these objections are yet unanswered. Mr. Frederick Mather, of the aquarium, then described and illustrated quite fully the operations now going on there in the hatching of the California salmon, with which it is proposed to stock the Hudson River.

Section of Geology and Mineralogy, November 20th. Papers on the Smelting of Native Copper at Lake Superior, by Prof. T. Egleston; on New American Fossil Fishes, by Prof. J. S. Newberry; and on the Lower Helderberg Rocks at Port Jervis, N. Y., by Dr. S. T. Barrett, were read.

PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON. — November 18, 1876. Dr. E. Bessels spoke of the English Polar Expedition, calling attention to the fact that the season they experienced was an evidently abnormal one, as compared with the experiences of all other observers; and that while it was doubtless true that under the circumstances no great progress toward the pole was possible, yet the obstacles encountered by these energetic explorers were by no means proved to be permanent, or insuperable in more favorable seasons.

He called attention to the confirmation by the English of the observations made by him during the Polaris expedition, showing that the tides in the northern part of the channel come from the north; not (as he had at one time supposed) from the Pacific, but from the North Atlantic around the north coast of Greenland.

Mr. Dall remarked that the difference in character of the tides in the West Arctic basin, in Bering Sea, and in the North Pacific south of Bering Sea was such as almost to render certain the fact that the basin of the Polar Sea west of the Parry Islands has a tide of its own, which, according to Haughton (On Tides at Point Barrow), is a simple semidiurnal wave, totally different from those observed by the United States Coast Survey in the other localities mentioned. He indorsed Dr. Bessels' view that the northern tides of Polaris Bay were in all probability derived from the North Atlantic.

December 2, 1876. Colonel Mallory, United States Army, exhibited a painted cloth which was obtained from a Sioux Indian, and which was a second copy from the original, said to have been prepared by Lone Dog, a Sioux, who was stated to be the official chronicler of the Sioux tribes of the Northwest. This cloth contained a series of symbols placed in sequence so as to form a spiral beginning at the middle of the cloth and extending from left to right. These symbols were seventy-one in number, and were said to form a chronology of events, one for each year, beginning with the year 1801 and including 1871. The events were not of an important character in all cases, but were such as were probably specially notorious at the time of occurrence, therefore easily remembered and suitable for forming such a chronology. They did not relate solely to the chronicler's own tribe, but to the Sioux tribes in general. The events were frequently of an apparently trivial character, such as a particular murder or successful theft of horses, fight with the Crows, or building of a trading post; sometimes of more importance, such as an eclipse of the sun, the prevalence of a pestilence, the appearance of the first soldiers, etc. Colonel Mallory explained the asserted meaning of the symbols as obtained from a large number of Sioux of different tribes, independently, at different times and places, all of whom were said to recognize the chronological character of the inscription and the meaning of part of the symbols, though none were able to explain all of the latter. Yet by the explanations of different persons, most of the signs were explained. All were agreed as to the authorship and nature of the chronology, and their explanations were not paid for, hence a strong probability of the authenticity of the chronology and of its really chronological character.

Much discussion followed on the reading of the paper. It was pointed out by Major Powell and others that while the figures were many of them unmistakably Indian in their character, yet the commencement of the record with the century, the representation of an eclipse as a black sun instead of by the mythological symbols, the representation of individuals by symbols drawn from the literal meaning of their names instead of by their totemic symbols, were not aboriginal characteristics, and tended to throw a doubt on the purely Indian character of the author or inspirer of the record, which nevertheless possessed great interest. The general verdict appeared to be that further confirmation of the character and original authorship of the asserted chronology was much to be desired.

BOSTON SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY. — November 1st. Prof. A. Hyatt made a communication on sponges, discussing their mode of development, based on original observations, and expressing his opinion that they formed the type of a new sub-kingdom of animals. Mr. J. A. Allen remarked on the American beavers, recent and fossil.

November 15th. Two papers were read by C. S. Minot entitled Classification of some of the Lower Worms; Description of a New Microtome for Cutting a Series of Sections.

December 6th. Prof. W. G. Farlow gave an account of certain algæ belonging to the groups *Oscillatoria* and *Bacteria.*

December 20th. Prof. C. H. Hitchcock and Rev. G. F. Wright spoke on ancient glacial moraines in Andover, Mass., and vicinity.

◆

SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.[1]

PETERMANN'S GEOGRAPHISCHER MITTHEILUNGEN. — October 28th. Die neuen administrativen Eintheilungen Japans, von L. Metschnikoff. Bilder aus dem hohen Norden, von K. Weyprecht. Lieut. Wheeler's Expedition durch das südliche Californien im Jahre 1875, von O. Loew. Die Temperatur-Verhältnisse im Meere zwischen Norwegen, Schottland, Island, und Spitzbergen, von H. Mohn. October 9th. Die Insel Hawaii und ihre Vulkane, von F. Birgham. Die geographische Verbreitung des Hagels, von H. Fritz. Die jüngsten Forschungen im See-'ngebiet des äquatorialen Ost-Afrika, von Young, Gessi, Stanley, 1874–76. Reisen in Columbien im 1872.

ARCHIV FÜR NATURGESCHICHTE. — 42. Heft ii. Ueber einige Canis-Arten des südlichen Südamerika's, von H. Burmeister. Ueber die Nahrung der *Alausa vulgaris,* und die Spermatophore von *Temora velox* Lilj., von Max Weber. Die Familie der Bdelliden, von Dr. Kramer. Die Hautdecker und Schale der Gastropoden, von F. Leydig. Heft iii. Anatomisches und histiologisches ueber Gibocellum, eine neue Arachnide, von A. Stecker.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL MAGAZINE. — December. Hissar and Kulab (Turkistan). The Indian Surveys, 1873–75.

THE GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE — December. On the Glauconite Granules of the Cambridge Green Sand, by W. J. Sollas. On Fossils from the Glacial Deposits of the Island of Lewis, by R. Etheridge. Fossiliferous Pliocene-Clays overlying Basalt in Lough Neagh, by E. T. Hardman.

---

[1] The articles enumerated under this head will be for the most part selected.